

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**UPDATE ON D2N2 DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS AND NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY****Purpose of the report**

1. To update Committee on progress towards a devolution settlement for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) and on the proposed Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority.

Information and advice

2. At its January 2015 meeting, the County Council approved Nottinghamshire County Council's joining of the proposed Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority on its establishment, which was anticipated at that point to be in April 2016. Since that meeting, work has been ongoing amongst public sector partners in Nottinghamshire on the Governance Review and Scheme (the documents required by the Government for its consideration of combined authority proposals). Public consultation on the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire proposals took place during the spring prior to the formal submission of the Governance Review and Scheme in May 2015.
3. Alongside the work on a proposed combined authority, the County Council supported work with partners and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership on a 'Devolution Prospectus' for the area. Building on the proposals to create 2 Combined Authorities of N2 (Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) and D2 (Derby and Derbyshire), and working with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership this prospectus outlined the types of powers and funding streams that D2N2 partners would wish to be devolved in any future 'deal' for the area which would significantly improve the prospects for economic growth.
4. The five themes in the Devolution Prospectus are Enterprise; Skills to Employment; Built Environment; Transport and Smart Infrastructure. The Devolution Prospectus was submitted to Government in March.
5. Following the General Election, the Chancellor used his July Budget Statement to announce a new wave of Devolution Deals across England. The Chancellor made it clear that new deals will be dependent on enhanced democratic accountability through new directly elected mayors or similar arrangements and areas that put forward ambitious proposals linked to directly elected governance arrangements could, in return, expect the Government to respond positively to their ambitions both for economic growth but also for wider public sector reform.

6. The Chancellor set a deadline for new devolution proposals to be submitted to the Government by 4th September. This was largely due to the Government's desire to agree new deals in time for them to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), which is due to report on 25th November.
7. Over the summer, intensive work and negotiations with Government on the parameters for a revised D2N2 devolution deal took place ahead of the 4th September deadline.
8. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark, and Lord Heseltine held a meeting with the 19 Leaders of the D2N2 local authorities in early August to listen to outline proposals and to reinforce the Government's position. Subsequently, proposals have been endorsed by the 19 Leaders and formed the basis of the devolution deal proposal submitted to Government on 4th September.
9. Working groups were established (chaired by nominated D2N2 Chief Executives) to review the thematic proposals within the existing D2N2 Devolution Prospectus, refine and amend these where appropriate and clarify specific powers and budgets that would form part of the amended deal.
10. Feedback indicates that the D2N2 devolution proposals have been well received by Government and that the D2N2 deal date will be 25 November. Intelligence suggests that 38 devolution deal proposals were submitted to government on 4th September.

Other Options Considered

11. Leaders and Councils from across Nottinghamshire support the creation of a Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority. The Government's invitation for new devolution settlements enabled more ambitious proposals to be developed for the D2N2 area and all partners have been supportive of this approach. Doing nothing was therefore discounted as an option.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. To ensure that County Council Members have the most up-to-date information in relation to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority and the D2N2 Devolution Prospectus.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described in the body of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. It is recommended that Committee notes the progress towards a devolution settlement for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) and on the Combined Authority.

Councillor Alan Rhodes
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Constitutional Comments

The report is for noting only so Constitutional Comments are not required.

Financial Comments (SES 24.09.2015)

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Establishment of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee; report to Full Council, 16th January 2014, published.

Consultation response: proposal to amend legislation relating to Combined Authorities and Economic Prosperity Boards; report to Policy Committee, 4th June 2014, published.

Economic Development Update: report to Policy Committee, 10th September 2014, published.

Proposals for a Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority; report to Economic Development Committee, 18th November 2014, published.

Establishment of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority; report to County Council, 15th January 2015, published.

All published reports to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee are available here: <http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=416>.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All